NUMB. CCXXXIV.

The SPECTATOR.

Splendide mendax. Hor.

Wedneſday, November 28. 1711.

OU very often hear People, after a Story has been told with ſome entertaining Circumſtances, tell it over again with Particulars that deſtroy the Jeſt, but give Light Truth of the Narration. This ſort of Ve- ough it is impertinent, has ſomething a- n it, becauſe it proceeds from the Love of en in frivolous Occaſions. If ſuch honeſt rats do not promiſe an agreeable Compa- y do a ſincere Friend; for which Reaſon d allow them ſo much of our Time, if their Company, as to ſet us right in t can do us no Manner of Harm, whe- Falls be one Way or the other. Lies old out of Arrogance and Oſtentation a detect in his own Defence, becauſe he be triumph'd over; Lies which are told e he ſhould expoſe, both for his own Sake the reſt of Mankind, becauſe every riſe againſt a common Enemy: But the ar many have argued is to be excuſed, ſome Man Good and no Man Hurt. who made more than ordinary Speed in which the *Athenians* were beaten, they had obtained a compleat Victo- the whole City into the utmoſt Joy and was checked by the Magiſtrates for his excuſed himſelf by ſaying, Oh *Athe-* your Enemy becauſe I gave ye two hap- This Fellow did to a whole People what ance of mine does every Day he lives nt Degree to particular Perſons. He People into good Humour, and, as was allowable in Phyſicians to lie to ts to keep up their Spirits, I am half ther my Friend's Behaviour is not as His Manner is to expreſs himſelf fur- chearful Countenance of a Man whom fident of himſelf; and generally by makes his Lie a Truth. He will, as know any think of the Circumſtance, n he knows at Variance with another, ing that Mr. ſuch a one, naming does not applaud him with that ich formerly he has heard him? He (continues he) I would rather have my Friend than any Man in *England*; Enemy——This melts the Perſon he expected nothing but down-right Rail- at Side. According as he ſees his Practices ſucceed, he goes to the oppoſite Party and tells him, he cannot imagine how it happens that ſome People know one another ſo little; you ſpoke with ſo much Coldneſs of a Gentleman who ſaid more Good of you, than, let me tell you, any Man living deſerves. The Succeſs of one of theſe Incidents was, that the next Time that one of the Adverſaries ſpy'd the other, he hems after him in the publick Street; and they muſt crack a Bottle at the next Tavern, that uſed to turn out of the other's Way to avoid one another's Eye-ſhot. He will tell one Beauty ſhe was commended by another, nay, he will ſay ſhe gave the Woman he ſpeaks to the Preference in a Particular for which ſhe herſelf is admired. The pleaſanteſt Confuſion imaginable is made through the whole Town by my Friend's indirect Offices; you ſhall have a Viſit returned after half a Year's Abſence, and mutual Railling at each other every Day of that Time. They meet with a thouſand Lamentations for ſo long a Separation, each Party naming her ſelf for the greater Delinquent, if the other can poſſibly be ſo good as to forgive her, which ſhe has no Reaſon in the World but from the Knowledge of her Goodneſs to hope for. Very often a whole Train of Railers of each Side tire their Horſes in ſetting Matters right which they have ſaid during the War between the Parties; and a whole Circle of Acquaintance are put into a thouſand pleaſing Paſſions and Sentiments, inſtead of the Pangs of Anger, Envy, Detraction and Malice.

The worſt Evil I ever obſerved this Man's Falſhood occaſion, has been that he turned Detraction into Flattery: He is well ſkilled in the Manners of the World, and by over-looking what Men really are, he grounds his Artifices upon what they have a Mind to be: Upon this Foundation, if two diſtant Friends are brought together, and the Cement ſeems to be weak, he never reſts till he finds new Appearances to take off all Remains of Ill-Will; and that by new Miſunderſtandings they are thoroughly reconciled.

To the SPECTATOR.

SIR, *Devonſhire, Nov.* 14, 1711.

'THERE arrived in this Neighbourhood two 'Days ago one of your gay Gentlemen of the 'Town, who being attended at his Entry with a 'Servant of his own, beſides a Countryman he 'had

had taken up for a Guide, excited the Curioſity of the Village to learn whence and what he might be. The Countryman (to whom they applied as moſt eaſy of Acceſs) knew little more than that the Gentleman came from *London* to travel and ſee Faſhions, and was, as he heard ſay, a Free-thinker: What Religion that might be, he could not tell, and for his own part, if they had not told him the Man was a Free-thinker, he ſhould have gueſſed, by his way of talking, he was little better than a Heathen; excepting only that he had been a good Gentleman to him, and made him drunk twice in one Day, over and above what they had bargain'd for.

'I do not look upon the Simplicity of this, and ſeveral odd Enquiries with which I ſhall trouble you, to be wondered at, much leſs can I think that our Youths of fine Wit, and enlarged Underſtandings have any Reaſon to laugh. There is no neceſſity that every Squire in *Great-Brittain* ſhould know what the Word Free-thinker ſtands for; but it were much to be wiſh'd, that they who value themſelves upon that conceited Title, were a little better inſtructed what it ought to ſtand for; and that they would not perſwade themſelves a Man is really and truly a Free-thinker in any tolerable Senſe, merely by Virtue of his being an Atheiſt, or an Infidel of any other Diſtinction. It may be doubted, with good Reaſon, whether there ever was in Nature a more abject, ſlaviſh, and bigotted Generation than the Tribe of *Beaux Eſprits*, at preſent ſo prevailing in this Iſland. Their Pretenſion to be Free-thinkers, is no other than Rakes have to be Free-livers, and Savages to be Free-men; that is, they can think whatever they have a mind to, and give themſelves up to whatever Conceit the Extravagancy of their Inclination, or their Fancy, ſhall ſuggeſt; they can think as wildly as they talk and act, and will not endure that their Wit ſhould be controuled by ſuch Formal Things as Decency and common Senſe: Deduction, Coherence, Conſiſtency, and all the Rules of Reaſon they accordingly diſdain, as too preciſe and Mechanical for Men of a liberal Education.

'This, as far as I could ever learn from their Writings, or my own Obſervation, is a true Account of a *Britiſh* Free-thinker. Our Viſitant here, who gave Occaſion to this Paper, has brought with him a New Syſtem of common Senſe, the particulars of which I am not yet acquainted with, but will loſe no opportunity of informing my ſelf whether it contain any think worth Mr. SPECTATOR's Notice. In the mean time, Sir, I cannot but think it would be for the good of Mankind, if you would take this Subject into your own conſideration, and convince the hopeful Youth of our Nation, that Licentiouſneſs is not Freedom; or, if ſuch a Paradox will not be underſtood, that a Prejudice towards Atheiſm is not Impartiality.

I am,

SIR,

Your moſt humble Servant,

PHILONOUS.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

☞ *There is now printing by Subſcription two Volumes of the* SPECTATORS *on a large Character in Octavo; the Price of the two Vols. well Bound and Gilt Guineas. Thoſe who are inclined to ſubſcribe, are deſired to make their firſt Payments to J. Tonſon, Bookſe in the Strand; the Books being ſo near finiſhed, that will certainly be ready for the Subſcribers at or before Chriſtmas next.*

The Third and Fourth Volumes of the LUCUBRATIONS *of Iſaac Bickerſtaff, Esq; are to be delivered at the ſame Place.*

N. B. The Author deſires that ſuch Gentlemen as have not received their Books for which they have ſubſcribed, would be pleaſed to ſignify the ſame to Tonſon.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedi

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-La to Morrow being Thurſday the 29th of Novembe be preſented a Comedy call'd, The Man of Mode, or Sir Flutter. Written by Sir George Etheridge. The Part of li g by Mr. Cibber, Dorimant by Mr. Wilks, Medley by old Bell air by Mr. Pinkethman, young Bell-air by Mr. Shoo-maker by Mr. Bowen, Lovett by Mrs. Oldfield, Mrs. Rogers, Harriet by Mrs. Santlow, Emilia by Mrs. Porter

AT the Queen's Theatre in the Market, this preſent Wedneſday, being the 28th ber, will be performed, an Opera call'd, Almahide. The Almahide to be performed by Mrs. Barbier. The Boxes firſt Gallery 2s. 6d. the Boxes upon the Stage half a Guinea, upper Gallery 1s. 6d. No Perſon to be admitted without To begin exactly at Six.

Theſe are to acquaint the Lovers of Part of the Collection of the late Sergeant Streeter's to be ſold by Auction this preſent Wedneſday being of this inſtant November, the Sale will begin at in the Afternoon, at his late Dwelling Houſe in Gerard This Part of the Collection principally conſiſts of ſigns on Cloath, Divers Patterns for Coach and other ral Flower Pieces of Van Zoon, not entirely finiſhed, finiſhed Pictures of the old Sergeant's and other Maſters lection may be ſeen this Day till the Time of Sale logues had Gratis. Note, this Collection is to be nefit of his Children, ſo that all things will be diſpo

Yeſterday was publiſhed,

The laſt new Comedy, call'd, The lief, or, the Husband's Cure. By Mr. Charles Johnſon. Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpears Head over againſt Katherine the Strand.

Yeſterday was publiſhed,

The Conduct of the Allies and the late in beginning and carrying on the preſent War. Morphew near Stationer's-Hall.

Wines to be ſold by Retail.

Excellent Red and White Port, and White Lisbon, being neat Wines as they came from the the beſt Growth in Portugal. To be ſold by the Importer in Brabant-Court in Philpot-Lane, viz. Red and White Gallon, or 24 l. per Hhd. Red and White Lisbon at 5s. or 16 l. per Hhd. Attendance will be given every Day

Juſt Publiſh'd,

Palmyra: Being Poems on ſeveral Subje The Captive, the Parting, complaining of Abſence, ting her Mask on, on receiving a Smile, preferring before Wealth, Abſence not to be endured, Advice dy concerning Marriage, &c. Sold by J. Morphew Hall. Price 6 d.

The Vapours in Women infallibly Cure Inſtant, ſo as never to return again, by an admirable cret, a few drops of which takes off a Fit in a Moment neſs, clears the Head, takes away all Swimming, neſs of Sight, Fluſhings in the Face, &c. to a Miracle tainly prevents the Vapours returning again, for the very Cauſe it perfectly Cures as Hundreds have alſo ſtrengthens the Stomach and Bowels, and cauſe feeted Health. Is ſold only at Mrs. Osborn's, Toy and Crown under St. Dunſtan's Church in Flee the Bottle, with directions. Beware of Counterfeits, for

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Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are
as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-B*
the *Strand*.